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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 CA-01
DODE-00 INR 10 NSAF 00 PA-01 ICA-11
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY JC DATE 8/18/81
01 CIAE-00
RDS ☐ XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. 041833Z REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P 031645Z JUL 80
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9936
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 12335
E.O. 12065: GDS 7/3/86 (BROWN, WILLIAM A) OR-M
TAGS: PBOR, SCUL, IS
SUBJECT: BLACK HEBREWS GETTING BAD PRESS

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)
2. IN THE AFTERMATH OF GLASS REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS THAT BLACK HEBREWS BE GIVEN SOME BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES AND RECOGNITION BY GOI, TWO QUITE UNFAVORABLE ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN THE ISRAELI PRESS. WE ARE POUCHING THE TEXTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ARE PROVIDING THE GIST OF BOTH ARTICLES BELOW.
3. THE JERUSALEM POST, JULY 1, CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY YOSEF GOELL WHICH WENT BEYOND THE GLASS REPORT'S OWN RATHER SCATHING CHARACTERIZATION OF BLACK HEBREW BEHAVIOR AND INTENTIONS TO CALL FOR THE GROUP'S EXPULSION FROM ISRAEL. GOELL ARGUES THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS HAVE INFILTRATED ISRAEL BY SUBTERFUGE. HE CRITICIZES THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, WHICH HE CLAIMS HAS "DITHERED FOR 10 YEARS OVER WHAT TO DO" AND WHICH IN FACT DID NOTHING. THE GLASS COMMITTEE, WHICH GOELL ARGUES "OPENLY ADMITS THAT THE BLACK HEBREWS DO NOT BELONG IN ISRAEL," ALSO COMES IN FOR CRITICISM. HE ARGUES THAT ISRAEL MUST REMAIN THE HOME OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND THE INDIGENOUS ARAB POPULATION. THE GROUNDS ON WHICH THE GLASS REPORT JUSTIFIES ALLOWING THE BLACK HEBREWS TO REMAIN

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IN ISRAEL WOULD, HE SUGGESTS, BE TANTAMOUNT TO FORCING ISRAEL TO ACCFDE TO BLACKMAIL. ISRAEL, IN GOELL'S VIEW, HAVE ALREADY PROVIDED IMPRESSIVE PROOF OF HER HUMANITARIAN SENSITIVITY ON SUCH ISSUES BY TAKING THE INITIATIVE AND ADMITTING SEVERAL GROUPS OF VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE. HE DOES NOT REGARD THE BLACK HEBREWS AS GENUINE REFUGEES. THERE IS NO PROSPECT THAT THE GROUP WILL BECOME ASSIMILATED INTO ISRAELI SOCIETY BECAUSE THEY ARE A CLOSED, ALIEN SECT. GIVEN THAT SOCIAL REALITY GOELL BELIEVES THAT THEIR CONTINUED PRESENCE WOULD SADDLE ISRAEL WITH A POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT RACIAL PROBLEM IN ADDITION TO ITS ALREADY EXISTING SOCIAL PROBLEMS. HE URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO REJECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GLASS REPORT AND TO SEEK AN UNSPECIFIED, "BETTER SOLUTION" WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE COOPERATION OF THE UNITED

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STATES GOVERNMENT.

4. ANOTHER REPORT BY ZVI IAVIE IN MA'ARIV, JULY 2, IS EQUALLY UNCOMPLIMENTARY TO THE BLACK HEBREWS. IAVIE REPORTS THAT HERETOFORE UNKNOWN DETAILS REGARDING THE CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES OF THE BLACK HEBREWS WERE REPORTED TO THE KNESSET BY TWO DEFECTORS FROM THE GROUP. THE TWO APOSTATE BLACK HEBREWS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY JEWISH RESIDENTS OF DIMONA WHO REPRESENT A COMMITTEE WHICH OPPOSES ADOPTION OF THE GLASS REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY RECOUNTED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN THE SECT IS CONTINUALLY BEING AUGMENTED BY PEOPLE WHO ARRIVE IN THE GUISE OF TOURISTS, PILGRIMS, AND PROFESSIONAL GROUPS." THE REPORT CONTAINS ALLEGATIONS THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FFLED AGAINST THEIR WILL IN BEN AMI CARTER'S "FORTRESS" AND THAT A NUMBER OF SECT MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED UNDER UNSPECIFIED CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN BURIED SECRETLY IN UNMARKED GRAVES. LEWIS

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